

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-01  
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R 251004Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8559

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS

REF: BANGKOK 1276

1. AS FOLLOW UP TO LUNCHEON MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER THANIN, AMBASSADOR AND USOM DIRECTOR GLADSON ON JANUARY 21 CALLED ON MINISTER QYF AGRICULTURE, OSTENSIBLY TO DISCUSS IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN WHICH THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES MIGHT WORK TOGETHER. MINISTER INSEE HAD AROUND HIM DIRECTORS-GENERAL AND ADVISORS FROM EACH OF HIS DEPARTMENTS, WHO PROCEEDED TO DISCUSS THEIR NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR POSSIBLE THAI/US COOPERATION.

2. IRRIGATION. IN ADDITION TO LARGE-SCALE IRRIGATION PROJECTS FINANCED JOINTLY WITH IBRD AND ADB, ROYAL IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT IS CARRYING OUT LARGE NUMBER OF SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS, PRIMARILY IN THE NORTHEAST. RID ASSERTS THAT DESIGN PHASE OF THESE SMALL PROJECTS IS OVER-TAXING THEIR ENGINEERING STAFF, AND WHAT THEY NEED IS A QUICK FIX ON DESIGNING THESE PROJECTS. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS OUTLINING AREAS FOR POSSIBLE AID ASSISTANCE. IN ADDITION, AMBASSADOR NOTED POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING  
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PEACE CORPS ENGINEERS.

3. FISHERIES. FISHERIES ADVISOR IDENTIFIED NEED FOR ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING THAILAND FISH CULTURE, PARTICULARLY IN INLAND FISHERIES. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER A SMALL FISHERIES PROJECT IF U.S. EXPERTISE IS AVAILABLE.

4. EXPORT MARKETING. THAI ADVISORS PRESENTED A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THAI AGRICULTURAL EXPORT STRATEGY FOR THE COMING YEAR, WITH PLANNED INCREASED EXPORTS OF RICE, RUBBER, AND CASSAVA. RESPONDING TO QUESTION WHETHER USG WOULD CONSIDER PURCHASING THAI RICE FOR PL 480 DISTRIBUTION, AMBASSADOR STATED THAT U.S. DOMESTIC ECONOMIC/ POLITICAL SITUATION WOULD PRECLUDE SUCH PURCHASES. HE STRESSED USG EFFORTS TO AVOID INTERFERING IN THAILAND'S NORMAL RICE MARKETS. IT WAS ALSO NOTED AND AGREED THAT CROP DIVERSIFICATION EFFORTS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

5. RESEARCH, FORESTRY. NEED FOR SOUTHERN RESEARCH STATION WITH EMPHASIS ON HORTICULTURE AS WELL AS FORESTRY REQUIREMENTS WERE IDENTIFIED AND DISCUSSED. NO USG INTEREST EXPRESSED IN THESE AREAS, WITH CONCERN NOTED FOR INCREASED RESEARCH/EXTENSION LINKAGES.

6. SUMMARY DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE THAI/US COOPERATION FOLLOWED THE DEPARTMENTAL PRESENTATIONS. USOM DIRECTOR NOTED THE NEED FOR INCREASED ATTENTION TO ON-FARM WATER USE, AND TO THE UPGRADING, REPAIRING AND MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING FACILITIES RATHER THAN NEW CAPITAL UNDERTAKINGS. AT CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, DR. THALERNG, DEPUTY UNDER-SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY, INDICATED HE WOULD FORWARD A MEMO SUMMARIZING THE PROPOSALS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING. WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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